

**General Assembly
Security Council**

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Agenda items 17 and 18

Security Council
Sixty-third year

The situation in the Middle East
Question of Palestine

**Identical letters dated 8 February 2008 from the Permanent
Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I write to inform you of the grave and alarming acts of violence and terrorism carried out by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip against Israel in recent days.

During the course of today alone, Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired no less than 22 Qassam rockets at Israel. Additionally, a mortar was fired from Gaza into southern Israel. Four Sderot residents were treated for shock, and a warehouse was damaged. In the early afternoon, five more rockets landed near the coastal area south of Ashkelon, one of which struck the grounds of Kibbutz Zikim.

Just two days ago, on Wednesday, 6 February, two young Israeli girls, ages 2 and 11, were wounded by shrapnel after a Qassam rocket slammed into a playground in Kibbutz Be'eri. The rocket narrowly missed the kindergarten building next door to the playground. Fortunately as well, the rocket was fired toward the end of the day, at a time when parents were already picking up their children and the park was beginning to empty. Had the rocket been fired only minutes earlier, the damage and bloodshed would have been far more devastating.

As we have seen recently in the incitement by Hamas leaders for Palestinian terrorists to carry out further acts of violence and terrorism, these attacks are part of a well orchestrated campaign to deliberately kill Israeli civilians and spread terrorism. Moreover, they are backed with the full support of some States in the region, in violation of their obligations under Security Council resolutions. In the light of the continuation of Palestinian terrorism, Israel will continue to defend itself and its citizens, as any other sovereign nation would, as is its right under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.



I should be grateful if you would have the contents of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dan Gillerman
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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Agenda item 10
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission**

**Security Council
Sixty-third year**

**Letter dated 28 December 2007 from the Chairperson of the
Peacebuilding Commission to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 11 December 2007 (S/2007/744), addressed to me in my capacity as Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, in which you conveyed the invitation of the Security Council to the Peacebuilding Commission to provide advice on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

I am pleased to inform you that, at a meeting held on 19 December 2007, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission agreed to place Guinea-Bissau on the Commission's agenda. The Commission also agreed to establish a country-specific configuration, to be chaired by Maria Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, to assist Guinea-Bissau in its peacebuilding efforts.

The Commission took note of the Security Council's request and will establish, in close contact with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau, the priorities and programme of work of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, mindful of the need to develop an integrated strategic approach to meet the challenges of peacebuilding in the country.

The Commission looks forward to informing you of its preliminary findings as soon as possible and keeping you informed of progress on its consideration of the matter.

(Signed) Yukio Takasu
Chairperson, Peacebuilding Commission

